

Message Text

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SUBJECT: 62ND ECOSOC: SWISS CANDIDACY FOR COMMISSION ON
TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS

REF: BERN 1355

1. US CONTINUES TO FOLLOW THE GENERAL PRACTICE OF DEFER-
RING TO THE ENDORSEMENTS BY THE RESPECTIVE REGIONAL GROUPS
OF COUNTRY CANDIDACIES FOR ELECTION TO UN BODIES, EXCEPT
WHERE UNUSUAL SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES DICTATE OTHERWISE
(FYI: CUBA IS PARTICULAR EXCEPTION). THEREFORE, WE
GENERALLY REFRAIN FROM OFFERING SUPPORT UNTIL THE RE-
SPECTIVE REGIONAL GROUP ENDORSEMENTS ARE MADE KNOWN.

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WHEN A REGIONAL GROUP IS UNABLE TO REACH AGREEMENT ON
ENDORSEMENT, HOWEVER, WE THEN MUST MAKE OUR OWN SELECTION
FOR OUR SUBSEQUENT VOTE IN THE PERTINENT UN BODY.

2. IN THE PRESENT CASE THERE ARE FOUR CANDIDATES FOR THREE
UPCOMING VACANCIES ALLOTTED TO THE "WESTERN EUROPE AND
OTHER" STATES IN THE TNC COMMISSION. THE OTHER THREE ARE

AUSTRALIA, FRANCE AND FRG, ALL OF WHOM ARE SEEKING RE-ELECTION. THE QUESTION HAS NOT YET BEEN RESOLVED IN

THE WEO CAUCUS IN NEW YORK, WHICH WILL BE MEETING AGAIN SOON. (SWITZERLAND IS ELIGIBLE UNDER THE "ALL STATES" MEMBERSHIP FORMULA PROVIDED IN THE ECOSOC RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE TNC COMMISSION.)

3. IF A FORMAL REPLY IS CALLED FOR, WE SUGGEST THAT THE SUBSTANCE BE ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES: "THE MINISTRY MAY BE ASSURED THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL GIVE CAREFUL CONSIDERATION TO SWITZERLAND'S CANDIDACY IN TAKING ITS POSITION ON ELECTIONS TO THE COMMISSION ON TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS AT THE 62ND SESSION OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL IN APRIL-MAY 1977. IN THIS CONNECTION, IT IS THE CUSTOMARY PRACTICE OF THIS GOVERNMENT TO DEFER TAKING A POSITION ON ELECTIONS TO UNITED NATIONS BODIES UNTIL THE PREFERENCES OF THE RESPECTIVE REGIONAL GROUP HAVE BEEN INDICATED."

4. FYI: ABOVE RESPONSE ADMITTEDLY SIDESTEPS THE QUESTION OF SUPPORT FOR ENDORSEMENT WITHIN THE WEO CAUCUS, WHICH THE SWISS MAY IMPLICITLY BE SEEKING. DESPITE OUR PARTICIPATION IN THE CAUCUS, HOWEVER, THERE IS IN FACT NO APPROPRIATE OCCASION FOR THE US OR OTHER NON-COMPETITORS TO BRING THEIR INFLUENCE TO BEAR IN SUCH CASES WITHIN THE CAUCUS PROCESS. COMPETING CANDIDACIES ARE NOT IN FACT RESOLVED IN THE WEO CAUCUS ITSELF BUT THROUGH INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS AND TRADE-OFFS AMONG THE COMPETING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CANDIDATES, OFTEN ENCOURAGED BY THE CAUCUS CHAIRMAN. IF NO SOLUTION EMERGES, THE MATTER IS LEFT UNDECIDED BY THE WEO CAUCUS AND IS FINALLY DECIDED BY VOTE IN THE PERTINENT UN BODY (IN THIS CASE ECOSOC), AS MENTIONED ABOVE.

VANCE

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